COMMANDERS DIGEST

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Executive Order Sets Up 'No Exam' Appointments In First 5 Civil Service Grades for Vietnam Vets

GUEST OF HONOR—Lt. Gen. Bruce Palmer Jr., Deputy Commanding General, U.S. Army, Vietnam, receives a miniature replica of the C-7A Caribou from Air Force Col. William H. Mason, 483rd Tactical Airlift Wing Commander. Gen. Palmer was guest of honor at a banquet celebrating the 483rd's first year of operation in Vietnam.

President Johnson has ordered the Civil Service Commission to provide Vietnam veterans with employment under "transitional appointments" in grades 1 through 5 without taking a competitive examination.

Under an executive order signed Feb. 9, "qualified" Vietnam veterans who have completed less than one year of education beyond high school, meet all other civil service requirements and served on active duty in the armed forces on or after Aug. 5, 1964, will be eligible to enter federal employment provided they agree to pursue a full-time or part-time educational program under the GI Bill.

"The new program will not affect the budget and staff reductions I have ordered for federal agencies. Vacancies in a wide range of skills and grades exist because of personnel turnover. And many of these skills are in short supply.

"For those with the necessary initiative and ability, this new program —together with the GI Bill—offers a chance for both further education and better jobs," the President said.

According to the executive order, those who apply for an appointment and are hired will be subject to:

(1) The satisfactory performance of assigned duties;

(2) The satisfactory completion, within a reasonable time set by the Civil Service Commission, of not less than one year of a full-time approved educational or training program, the equivalent thereof, or two years of full-time approved education or training when an employee has not completed high school or its equivalent.

Personnel eligible for appointment

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New Defense Dept. Directive Outlines Drug Abuse Program

Department of Defense has issued a directive outlining policies and establishing responsibilities for preventing and eliminating drug abuse by members of the armed forces.

The directive, 1300.11 of Feb. 2, 1968, assigns over-all development and monitoring of a coordinated program to the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Manpower and Reserve Affairs) and requires him to: "provide for the procurement and development of materials, including films and pamphlets, for the orientation and continuing education of all personnel in the armed forces. . ."

Some of the other duties of the Assistant Secretary will be to:

- Review existing programs of the military departments.
- Prepare a quarterly evaluation of drug abuse incidents by military personnel.

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DOD Reinstates Deferred Construction Projects

A Department of Defense temporary construction order of Oct. 5, 1967, has been rescinded, and reinstates $200 million remaining in FY67 and prior year construction projects plus $600 million of FY68.

The projects total approximately $800 million.

The Oct. 5 order deferred certain military construction projects not associated with Southeast Asia, new weapon systems or otherwise required because of exceptional circumstances.

Types of construction in the released funds include: operational, training, maintenance and production, RD&T, hospital and medical facilities and troop housing.

In mid-December, funds for six family housing projects were released. This consisted of 1,101 units. At the same time, it was announced that additional housing projects would be released monthly.

The planned family housing construction program for FY68 consists of 6,750 units—1,350 to Army; 2,890 to Navy and 2,510 to Air Force.

U.S., Germany Stop Work On Joint V/STOL Project

Work on the joint U.S.-Federal Republic of Germany V/STOL Tactical Fighter Program has been stopped, the Department of Defense and Germany's Federal Ministry of Defense announced in a joint statement Feb. 9.

Studies on the aircraft, a vertical and short takeoff and landing fighter plane, had proceeded through Phase II of the three-part program, but because there was a lack of firm operational requirement at this time, it was decided not to initiate Phase III—the acquisition of a prototype.

However, in accordance with the basic agreement of 1964, the two governments are planning to continue a review of V/STOL aircraft requirements and develop a general program to provide for advances in technology necessary to meet future V/STOL objectives of the two nations.

Civil Service Jobs for Vietnam Vets

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must be hired within one year after separation from the armed forces, a year following release from hospitalization or treatment immediately following separation from the armed forces, or a year after the effective date of the executive order, whichever is later.

Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Civilian Personnel Policy Carl Clewlow said the program's advantages "really come when the man completes his specified requirement for education and has performed effectively on the job. Under these circumstances, a person may be converted to career conditional or career employment when he has furnished his employing agency some proof of the satisfactory completion of the required education or training and when he has in fact performed effectively on the job over a specified period of time.

"This would bring him into either the career conditional—which is a stepping stone to competitive service—or into the full competitive career service which would give him the opportunity for continuing employment. This in turn implies that he has established a capability or increased his capacity to perform which could lead to promotion within the grade or advancement in the civil service scale."

The Department of Defense has been working with the Civil Service Commission, the Veterans Administration, the Justice Department and other departments and agencies in the federal government to insure the provisions set forth in the executive order can and will be applied.

Mr. Clewlow's office is charged with the primary responsibility of insuring that DOD's existing regulations and policies enable departments, agencies or activities within the defense establishment to offer employment under the provisions of the executive order "when positions are available and when eligible candidates are available to meet the need."

A study is currently being conducted to determine the number of armed services personnel who will be eligible under the new program and to attempt to establish "some time frame within which additional eligibility will occur for those persons leaving the armed forces."

Once completed, the results of the study will be made available to a number of federal departments "because in the final analysis, it is neither the Department of Defense nor the Civil Service Commission which can by themselves effect this kind of employment.

"The employment takes place at the installation level. Therefore, this information must be made available to the Treasury Department, the Interior Department, the Agriculture Department and others who have field activities all over the country where it is possible to work."

A second study, to be conducted by another DOD department, will soon begin to identify the number and kinds of positions which are now or will become available within the defense establishment.

According to Mr. Clewlow, the turnover rate "is such that we can expect between 14 and 20 percent of the military's civil service personnel in those grades to leave each year. Thus, if a person leaves his position, it creates a vacancy and the vacancy creates a possibility for a returning Vietnam veteran."

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President Johnson Submits Recommendations To Congress on Military Assistance Programs

A $420 million appropriation for Military Assistance Programs and new, separate legislation for the purchase of U.S. military equipment by friendly nations was recommended by President Johnson in his Feb. 8 foreign aid message to Congress.

The President stated in his annual message that more than three-quarters of U.S. grant military assistance will support the military efforts of nations on the perimeter of the Communist world and those nations where the U.S. maintains defense installations important to our own national security.

Programs Tied to Free World Security

Tying the programs to the Free World's collective security, the President told Congress "our aid—economic as well as military—must not reward nations which divert resources to unnecessary military expenditures. Most less developed countries have resisted large expansion of military expenditures. Their military budgets have remained a small portion of national income. Their leaders have made politically difficult decisions to resist pressure to acquire large amounts of new and expensive weapons."

Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara, in his annual "posture" statement before the Senate Armed Services Committee, further amplified the President's message, giving a breakdown of where a majority of the $420 million will be allocated.

In his statement, Mr. McNamara noted that:

First priority has again been accorded to the "forward defense" countries and that provisions have been made in the fiscal 1969 budget to support relations which ensure our continued access to important military facilities in certain countries, but the aid provided specifically for this purpose is minimal.

Korea To Get Large Share

Of the $420 million requested for grant aid, $387 million would be for the forward defense countries of Korea, the Republic of China, the Philippines, Iran, Greece and Turkey. Korea, because of its vulnerability to threats from the north and its commitment of 50,000 troops to the Vietnam effort, would receive the largest share.

Greece and Turkey would receive the required assistance to keep them moving toward their armed forces goals, but at a slower rate than originally planned. Grant aid to the Republic of China would be reduced, a cut which assumes that an improving economy will permit her to pay for an increasingly larger share of her legitimate defense needs. The Philippines program would provide for aid in maintaining defense forces, improving internal security, and use of its armed forces in civic action programs.

Grant aid for Latin America totals only $26 million, one half to continue essential training programs, and the remainder to provide modest materiel aid to small countries which have an internal security requirement.

Military Equipment Sales

President Johnson told Congress that over the past several years the U.S. has "significantly reduced" its grant military aid wherever possible, turning instead to cash and credit sales.

"I will submit separate legislation to authorize necessary military sales and provide credit terms where justified," Mr. Johnson said.

Military sales, according to Mr. McNamara, are an integral and essential part of the collective defense and the overall U.S. foreign policy. It helps the balance of payments by helping reduce the costs, both to the allies and the U.S., of equipping U.S. forces, by minimizing costly duplicative development programs and realizing the economies of larger scale production.

Three Basic Sales Rules

Three basic rules for sale of U.S. military equipment to foreign nations are:

- No sale of military equipment is made to a foreign country where it is believed they cannot afford the cost.
- No recommendation is made that a foreign customer purchase anything but that which is truly needed by its own force.
- The U.S. will not seek to sell a foreign nation anything it can purchase cheaper or better elsewhere in the Free World.

Every proposed sale of U.S. military equipment, whether on the commercial or government level, is reviewed within the Executive branch and approval is not given until it is determined the sale is in the best interests of both the U.S. and the purchaser.

DOD Drug Abuse Program

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• Keep DOD components informed of research projects being conducted.

The secretaries of the military departments and directors of defense agencies are required to disseminate informational material, devise orientation programs and:

"Insure that military commanders take appropriate action for providing orientation programs to military personnel before their departure to overseas areas; and that military commanders provide refresher training . . . on a regular basis to members already in overseas areas (particularly areas where drugs may be illicitly obtained with relative ease)."

The directive also outlines responsibilities for programs to control smuggling of drugs and directs military departments to:

• Develop additional procedures to prevent illicit trafficking and shipping of drugs by members of the armed forces.

• Develop special attention to the possibility of illicit drugs being transported by members of the armed forces traveling from one country to another.

The directive is effective immediately and each military department "shall issue or revise existing regulations to carry out the policies set forth in this directive."

(The Office of Information for the Armed Forces is preparing a handbook on the characteristics and hazardous effects of drug abuse. On publication, the handbook will be distributed through the military departments.)

Construction of 1,500 Housing Units Slated Near U.S. Bases in England

Construction of 1,500 family housing units adjacent to U.S. military installations in England is scheduled for mid-1968 under a recently initiated Guarantee Rental Housing Program, the Department of Defense announced Feb. 13.

The program is designed to relieve overcrowded off-base housing conditions and to meet the urgent need to accommodate U.S. families relocated in England following the withdrawal of military personnel from France last year.

BRIGADIER NOMINEE—Col. Robin Olds, shown here receiving the Air Force Cross for heroism in Vietnam from Lt. Gen. Thomas S. Moorman, Superintendent, U.S. Air Force Academy, was nominated Feb. 13 by President Johnson for promotion to brigadier general. Col. Olds is now Commandant of Cadets at the Air Force Academy.

A major share of the planned housing units is projected for Suffolk where 1,350 will be built. In addition 550 will be constructed near the Royal Air Force's Mildenhall-Lakenheath complex, 250 at RAF Bentwaters-Woodbridge, 250 at RAF Alconbury-Huntingdonshire, and 300 at RAF Upper Heyford, Oxfordshire. Also included in the plan are 150 units for the U.S. Navy at Holy Loch, Scotland.

Financing and construction of the $19.2-24 million project will be undertaken by civilian contractors. The U.S. government will guarantee 97 percent of the full rental for a minimum of 10 years. Units will meet basic U.S. specifications, but style and type will conform to local planning authority requirements.

Individual tenants will come from a base waiting list and they will be required to sign a lease. Rentals will be at a basic price for two, three and four bedroom units with tenants paying for utilities.

Although this is the first such project planned in England, similar building programs have been negotiated in other foreign countries where U.S. forces are based.

Freedoms Foundation Names Winners in Letter Contest

Army SP4 Mark A. White, serving in A Btry., 1st Bn., 68th Arty., in Germany, has been named top winner in the annual Freedoms Foundation "Defender of Freedom" letter writing competition for military personnel.

Specialist White's letter, which won him $1,000 and an encased George Washington Honor Medal, was judged to have best exemplified the theme of the 1967 competition, "Freedom—My Heritage, My Responsibility."

White and nine other service winners will receive their awards Feb. 22 at the Foundation's 19th annual national awards ceremonies at Valley Forge, Pa.

The nine other top service winners are: MSgt. John D. Adkins, USA; SP5 James E. Bohannon, USA; Col. Daniel James, USAF; Capt. James J. Kirschke, USMC; Lt. Charles R. Pursley, USNR; Col. Harold D. Shoemaker, USAF; Lcdr. L. M. Stevenson Jr., USN; Capt. John D. Williams, USAF, and Yeoman Second Class Monico A. Fernandez, USCG.

DOD Announces Deployment Of 10,500 Troops to RVN

Approximately 10,500 additional U.S. servicemen are being deployed to South Vietnam, in compliance with Gen. William C. Westmoreland's request, the Department of Defense announced Feb. 13.

The current strength in Vietnam is 500,000.

Officials emphasized that no decision has been made to increase the 525,000 total authorization announced earlier. Also, Gen. Westmoreland has not requested to exceed the current authorized ceiling.

The units involved in this new deployment are all ground troops, and are not necessarily units which had been scheduled to go to Vietnam.

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